UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

SPLOS

MEETING OF
STATES PARTIES

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MEETING OF STATES PARTIES
Seventh meeting
New York, 19-23 May 1997

AMENDMENT OF RULE 18 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR MEETINGS OF STATES PARTIES (SPLOS/2/Rev.3)

IV. PARTICIPATION OF OBSERVERS

Rule 18

Observers

1. At Meetings of States Parties, the following may participate as observers if they are not Parties to the Convention:

(a) States that have signed the Convention;

(b) States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies of the United Nations system or the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(c) International organizations referred to in Annex IX of the Convention;

(d) Entities referred to in article 305, paragraph 1, subparagraphs (c), (d) and (e), of the Convention;

(e) Observers at the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea who have signed the Final Act and who are not referred to in article 305, paragraph 1 (c), (d), (e) or (f), of the Convention.

2. The International Seabed Authority may participate as an observer.

3. The specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other intergovernmental organizations that are invited to the Meetings of States Parties may participate as observers.

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4. Non-governmental organizations with consultative status with the Economic and Social Council whose fields of competence are relevant to the law of the sea may also participate as observers.

5. Other non-governmental organizations which have demonstrated their interest in matters under consideration by the Meeting may be invited by the Meeting to participate as observers.

6. Representatives of observers referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this rule may participate, subject to the provisions of these rules, in the deliberations of the Meetings of States Parties but shall not be entitled to participate in the taking of decisions.

7. Observers referred to in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of this rule may designate representatives to sit at public meetings of the Meetings of States Parties and, upon invitation by the President and subject to the approval of the Meeting, may make oral statements and submit written statements on questions within the scope of their activities.

8. Written statements submitted by observers shall be distributed to the Meetings of States Parties by the Secretariat.